

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-17 and 19-23 are pending. Claims 3, 5 and 6 are amended to correct their dependency. New claims 19-23 have been added. No new matter is introduced. Support for the new claims is found throughout the specification, for example, from page 2, line 19 to page 4, line 20. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Publication No. US 2002/0046386 to Skoll et al. (hereinafter, Skoll). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recited, among other features, “examining a schematic of the circuit, creating a copy of the artwork of the circuit, and...comparing the artwork of the circuit to a schematic of the circuit.” Applicant respectfully submit that *Skoll* does not disclose or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

To reject these features of the claim, the Office Action at paragraph 3 cites several sections of *Skoll*. The cited sections fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. For example, to reject the “creating a copy of the artwork of the circuit” feature, the Office Action cites paragraphs 0073 – 0075. However, these paragraphs state that edit operations performed between mosaic-views are preferably subject to the following rules: an annotation object is associated with the annotation overlay displayed in the mosaic-view 262 in which the edit operation started; and moving or **copying an annotation object** associates the annotation object with the annotation overlay displayed in the mosaic-view 262 in which the edit operation ended (emphasis added). However, the cited sections do not disclose or suggest “creating a copy of the artwork of the circuit” as recited in independent claims 1 and 10. An annotation object is not artwork of the circuit.

Moreover, to reject “comparing the artwork of the circuit to a schematic of the circuit” feature, the Office Action cites Figs. 15A, 15B and paragraph 107. However, paragraph 107 relates to “net-lists and FIGS. 15A and 15B are schematic diagrams illustrating the generation of a net-list from interconnected annotation objects on an annotation overlay shown in FIG. 15A.” However, these figures and cited sections of *Skoll* do not disclose or suggest “comparing the artwork of the circuit to a schematic of the circuit” as recited in independent claim 1. No where does *Skoll* disclose comparing artwork (see, e.g., Fig. 3A) to a schematic (see, e.g., Fig. 3C).

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above.

In addition to the above indicated features, *Skoll* does not teach or suggest the following features as recited in the dependent claims:

- inferring further comprises the step of renaming signal names (claims 5 and 13)
- obtaining shortest path between conflicting labels in the circuit (claims 7 and 15)
- modifying artwork of the circuit (claims 8 and 16)
- running the connectivity extract tool on the modified artwork (claims 9 and 17)

Claims 3-9 depend from independent claim 1 and claims 11-17 depend from independent claim 10. Therefore, claims 3-9 and 11-17 are allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to the claim from which they depend, and for the additional features recited therein (as indicated above).

Applicant respectfully submit that *Skoll* does not disclose or suggest, at least "...if the short exists, evaluating a schematic text file associated with the circuit to identify each connection in the circuit; creating a copy of the artwork of the circuit; inferring and renaming labels, associated with each identified connection, in the copy of the artwork; and running the connectivity tool on the copy of the artwork to identify a shortest electrical path between two conflicting inferred and renamed labels" as recited in new claim 19. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 19 is in condition for allowance over the applied art.

New claims 20-23 depend from independent claim 19. Therefore, claims 20-23 are allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 19 from which they depend, and for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

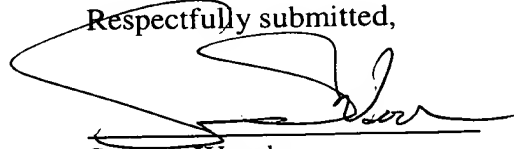
In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is requested. Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and requests that a notice of allowance be issued.

Appl. No. 09/977,699
Amdt. dated April 27, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of February 12, 2004

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is required to expedite the prosecution of this application or further clarify the issues, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Date: **April 27, 2004**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean S. Wooden', is written over a horizontal line.

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